FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

27 OCTOBER 1983

Lebanon

Reaction to Bombings — Former President Sulayman Franjiyah, speaking at a news conference on 25 October, denounced the bombings of the Marine and French forces headquarters in Beirut, the Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon reported.

Israeli President Yitzhaq Shamir told a group from the United States that the bombings were "done by Syria and terrorist elements working under its aegis, enjoying a Soviet umbrella," ITIM reported. The Israeli newspaper *Ha'aretz* charged that Iran could not have carried out the attacks, "even if it had wanted to," as only Syria has the necessary control and logistics for such an atack in Lebanon.

In an interview with Tehran radio, Ayatollah Khomeyni's representative on the Iranian Supreme Defense Council reiterated that "it is impossible that Iran was behind the incidents."

Political Developments — Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt warned against "continued violation of the ceasefire" by Lebanese Army and Phalangist forces in a statement reported by SANA, adding that he might "reconsider" his decision to participate in the Geneva reconciliation conference if the violations continue. President al-Jumayyil held a "lengthy" telephone conversation with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, during which Al-Asad was invited to send an envoy to attend the conference, Beirut radio reported. Al-Jumayyil also held a similar conversation with Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and met with former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens asserted in a Jerusalem television interview that relations between Israeli forces and the Shi'a population in southern Lebanon have not worsened. Meanwhile, Shi'ite leaders in An-Nabatiyah conferred with IDF officers and emphasized that they "would not support" violence "inspired" by orders from Beirut or Damascus, according to Jerusalem radio.

Military Situation — Army positions in 'Ayn ar-Rummanah, Suq al-Gharb, and Qabr Shmun were shelled while positions in the southern suburbs of Beirut came under RPG and machine gun fire on 26 October, according to reports by Beirut and Voice of Lebanon radios. Voice of Lebanon also reported clashes in Iqlim al-Kharrub.

A security source cited by Beirut radio reported Israeli and Syrian forces building up along the confrontation line in the Al-Biqa'. Similarly, security reports cited by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon stated that the Syrians have reinforced positions overlooking the Al-Biqa' plain.

Iran-Iraq War

Reporting on the latest stage of the offensive in the northern sector, military communiques broadcast by Tehran radio said Iranian forces advanced to the northwest of Panjwin, ultimately capturing strategic heights directly west of the city. The communiques added that the advances took Iranian forces to positions from which they can both observe and fire upon the main Iraqi supply route in the region and maintained that 400 Iraqis were killed or wounded during the advance. A military communique carried by Baghdad radio said Iranian forces attempting to approach Iraqi positions in the northern sector were repulsed. Iraqi units engaged Iranian forward units, killing 65.

Responding to Iraq's claims to have mined areas of the Gulf, the commander of the Iranian Navy stated that Iran's naval superiority in the Gulf allows it to keep all Iraqi movements under observation, making any such claims "baseless and vain," IRNA reported. The commander affirmed that "generally" Iranian policy is not to close the Strait of Hormuz "unless others should block" Iran's access to the waterway.

Iran

Government forces launched more operations against "counter-revolutionaries" in West Azarbayjan near Sar Dasht, inflicting more than 150 casualties, "liberating" 18 villages, and capturing 8 strategic heights near the Iraqi border, IRNA reported. The Mojahedin-e Khalq released a communique in Paris claiming that 500 Islamic Revolution guards were killed when they attacked Kurdish villages on 24 October, the clandestine Free Voice of Iran radio announced.

PLO Affairs

At a press conference in the Al-Baddawi camp in Lebanon, a member of the General Command of the Syrian-backed As-Sa'iqah organization announced that some militias, military units, and individual members of the As-Sa'iqah forces in the Al-Barid and Al-Baddawi camps and the Tripoli area split from the organization's leadership when it "disavowed the PLO," Radio Monte Carlo reported.

A member of the Fatah Central Committee, cited by WAKH, announced that Fatah will hold a conference in January that will have the authority to confirm or change the Fatah leadership.

In another development, the PRC informed the acting PLO mission chief in Beijing that it will supply emergency material aid in response to an appeal by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, according to XINHUA.

Reaction to Grenada Events

Reacting to the "armed invasion" of Grenada by the United States and six other Caribbean countries, Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi sent a message to the UN Security Council, secretary general, and chairman of the General Assembly asserting that the events in Grenada "killed any hope" smaller nations like Grenada may have of living in freedom. According to JANA, Al-Qadhdhafi charged that the only thing that can "rescue" humanity is "an international alliance to invade the United States" and "purge the spirit of evil and nazism" there. Tripoli radio relayed proceedings of a demonstration in Tripoli during which a statement was read denouncing the U.S. action.

An official Syrian source cited by Damascus television condemned the action and called for the withdrawal of the "invading" forces, while Damascus radio asserted that by its invasion of Grenada the United States proved that its talk of freedom and democracy "is as false in the American Continent as it is in the Middle East." A spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Affairs Ministry cited by Tehran radio condemned the "aggression," and a PDRY Foreign Affairs Ministry statement broadcast by Aden radio denounced the "imperialist armed invasion."

Meanwhile, the Algerian Foreign Ministry secretary general met with the U.S. ambassador and noted that "an immediate and unconditional end to this intervention is an irrevocable demand," according to Algiers radio. The Qatari newspapers *Ar-Rayah* and *Al-'Arab* were cited by QNA as warning the United States against a similar invasion of Lebanon under the same "pretexts and claims," while the UAE newspapers *Al-Ittihad* and *Al-Khalij* denounced the U.S. methods and observed that Grenada is no larger than a "small Arab town," reported WAM.

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India 'Strongly Opposed' to Grenada Intervention

BK261301 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 26 Oct 83

[Text] India has strongly opposed the intervention of outside forces in Grenada and urged the immediate withdrawal of all foreign forces from that country so that it can manage its own affairs in freedom.

A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi today that the invasion of Grenada by outside forces cannot be justified and is inconsistent with the basic laws of international behavior. The Government of India views the events in Grenada with grave concern. The killing of the prime minister, Mr Maurice Bishop, and several of his Cabinet colleagues has caused consternation and dismay in India and other nonaligned countries. We were looking forward to receiving Prime Minister Bishop in November for the Commonwealth heads of government meeting, he said.

Rao Addresses Committee on Foreign Relations

BK261558 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Oct 83

[Text] There is a wide international support to India's initiatives to solve the situation in Sri Lanka. This was stated by the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, at a meeting of the parliamentary consultative committee of his ministry in New Delhi today.

He said India's offer of good offices cannot be considered as interference in the internal affairs of Sri Lanka. He told the members that the next visit of the prime minister's special envoy, Mr Parthsarthi, to Colombo is now under discussion with the Sri Lanka authority.

Mr Rao apprised the members of the prime minister's meeting with several heads of government in New York last month. He said the discussions yielded good results and there was convergence of views between the countries of the North and the South and East and West.

About bilateral relations with Pakistan, the minister explained while there are positive developments such as the establishmentof a joint commission, there are also some negative aspects which cannot be ignored.

Defense Minister on Strengthening Naval Force

BK261442 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 26 Oct 83

[Text] The defense minister has said that the government is taking the necessary steps to strengthen the naval force in view of the increasing tension in the Indian Ocean region.

Mr Venkataraman was addressing a senior naval officers conference in New Delhi today. He said the government was viewing with serious concern the induction of sophisticated arms into Pakistan. He particularly referred to Pakistan's acquisition of modern destroyers armed with Harpoon missiles, F-16 aircraft, Mirage fighter bombers, and the Hawkeye airborne early warning aircraft.

The minister said the country's plan for adding to the strength of the Navy is taking concrete shape now.

Border Security Force Rejects Criticism

BK261416 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 26 Oct 83

[Text] The Ministry of Home Affairs has refuted the allegation that slackness of the Border Security Force has encouraged infiltration. The allegation was contained in a news item published in a section of the press yesterday.

An official press release in New Delhi today said that the checking of infiltration has been intensified and over 7,000 infiltrators were apprehended on the West Bengal-Bangladesh borders during January-September this year. All of them were pushed back to Bangladesh.

AFP: 10,000 Turn Out for Lahore Demonstration 26 Oct

OW262120 Hong Kong AFP in English 2106 GMT 26 Oct 83

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 26 (AFP) – More than 10,000 people turned out in Lahore today for the largest anti-government demonstration in Punjab Province since the launch two months ago of an opposition campaign for a return to democracy.

The demonstrators walked three km (two miles) along a railway line from a Lahore suburb to the town's main railway station, avoiding heavy police presence along the planned [word indistinct] route.

At the station, union leaders demanded better working conditions, the right to strike and a return to democracy, and demonstrators burned an effigy of President Mohammad Ziaul Haq. However, the demonstration was smaller (?than) expected, observers in Lahore said, and [words indistinct] a time when the opposition (?committee) for a return to Democracy seemed to be failing in its attempt to mobilise the whole of Pakistan against Gen. Ziaul's military regime.

The number of people giving themselves up for voluntary arrest, a popualr tactic at the beginning of the campaign, has been steadily falling, and a government spokesman in Islamabad said the anti-government campaign was "dying out."

[Words indistinct] dismissed incidents such as last night's grenade attack in Lahore which killed (?two) people and wounded 18 as "isolated" acts.

[Words indistinct] the former general secretary of the Karachi Bar Association, Munir Malik, said he was optimistic that the MRD campaign would lead to martial law being lifted before the end of the year.

JASARAT Terms Big Landowners 'Real Cause of Trouble'

GF270830 Karachi Jasarat in Urdu 24 Oct 83 P 3

[Editorial: "This Is All Your Doing"]

[Text] General Ziaul Haq in his speech before the Advisory Council said that the situation in Sind Province was the creation of certain Sindhi politicians who want to reestablish themselves above the people and want to regain their lost power.

The circumstances have brought Gen Ziaul Haq to the logical conclusion which we have been expounding for years. The real cause of trouble in this country is the big landowners, the cruel policemen, and corrupt bureaucrats. The reins of trouble are being manipulated by the big landowners alone. The high police officials, sardars, waderas, pirs, feudal lords, big landowners are sons of nabobs [all terms denote big landowners in one form or another] and come from the big landowning class. They go to elite schools and take high positions in police and civil administration and guard the interests of their own class. They keep the public busy to distract attention from their own doings.

The president, instead of getting rid of these elements at the very beginning, kept on nurturing these snakes during the past 6 years of the present regime as he delayed the project of accountability – which incidently has become somewhat of a joke today.

These snakes are hissing again. What has the president done to break the backs of these waderas and pirs?

His governor in Sind Province has always maintained good relations with these big fish. Instead of reaching the people directly, he has surrounded himself with these parasites. In fact,the Sind bureaucracy has a good grip over the provincial governor and has cut him off from the general public. After all these troubles, why has the governor not felt the need to change his administration?

It is natural that the general public shows little faith in him. People want action not talk. If the president wants to help the people of Sind he should hit at feudalism in Sind. Nobody seems to notice that despite repeated land reforms there are still huge land holdings in South Punjab and Sind. It is due to the bureaucratic machinations that the peasants are still being suffocated by the feudal lords and that the latter still hold on to great lands.

The oppressing of the haris [peasants in Sind] and forcing them to become brigands and highwaymen or forcing people to walk the path of agitation or creating anarchy is nothing but the work of these feudal lords. How long will these wadcras go on enjoying these privileges? And if these problems are to be solved, when will they be solved?

We want an Islamic system. To achieve this, first of all,social justice has to be created and all injustice, corruption, oppression, exploitation, and social imbalance must end. To achieve this, the waderas must go.

Commentary Criticizes India for 'Interference'

BK270808 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 26 Oct 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Government of Pakistan has protested to the Government of India against the continuing violation by India of the universally recognized principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of states.

According to an official handout issued in Islamabad, the Indian ambassador was called to the Foreign Office yesterday and a protest was lodged over the highly offensive and objectionable remarks made by a member of Indian parliament belonging to the ruling Congress-I Party at a Sindhi conference held in New Delhi October 12-19 which was inaugurated by the prime minister of India and addressed by the president of India. The Indian ambassador was told that such activities by a member of parliament belonging to the party in power and the official encouragement given to these activities clearly violated the norms and principles of interstate relations.

The highly provocative and anti-Pakistan speeches made at the so-called Sindhi conference is not the first instance of direct

Indian interference in Pakistan internal affairs. It was the latest in the series of well calculated and well planned pronouncements by top Indian leadership — including the Indian prime minister — whichhas amounted to direct intervention in Pakistan's internal affairs. As soon as some isolated incidents of violence took place, the Indian leadership of the ruling party came out with open statements amounting to clear interference in Pakistan's internal affairs.

One significant aspect of this unwarranted Indian attitude toward Pakistan is the fact that Pakistan has scrupulously abstained from interfering in the internal affairs of India, even in cases of communal strife. Similarly Pakistan refrained from taking advantage of the widespread disturbances in the border province of Indian Punjab. This is due to the fact that Pakistan firmly believes in the policy of noninterference in the affairs of other nations in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and principles adopted by all world organizations, including the Nonaligned Movement. This fact was also pointed out by President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq in the letter written by him to the Indian prime minister in reply to her letter.

In the letter and in other statements, President Ziaul Haq continues to give expression to Pakistan's desire to continue the process of dialogue with India and further the process of normalization of relations between the two countries. He has pointed out that the development of good neighborly relations between India and Pakistan was of the utmost importance for the maintenance of peace and stability in the region and for enabling both the countries to continue their development program for the well-being of the teeming masses. This, of course, can only be achieved if the two countries base their relations on the internationally recognized priniples of soverign equality, noninterference in each other's affairs, and respect for each other's territorial integrity.

This is particularly important in the context of Pakistan-India relations which only recently started a sound process of normalization after decades of bitterness, tension, and even warfare. It is also true that Pakistan and India cannot afford to fritter away their energies and resources in confrontations which divert their attention from the more important task of nation building.

Omani Armed Forces Chief Ends Visit 24 Oct

BK261213 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Oct 83

[Text] The chief of the defense Staff of the Omani Armed Forces, General Sir Timothy Creasey, left Rawalpindi last evening after a 3-day official visit to Pakistan. Earlier, Gen Sir Timothy Creasey had called on Defense Minister Mir Ali Ahmad Khan Talpur and visited the Pakistan aeronautical complex, Kamra, and Pakistani ordnance factories, Wah.

BANGLADESH

Reportage on General Ershad's U.S. Visit

Addresses Businessmen

BK251238 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 25 Oct 83

[Text] Addressing the leading industrialists and businessmen in Washington, General Ershad said Bangladesh will welcome American investments as partners in progress. He said there is a favorable investment climate in Bangladesh for American private sector entrepreneurs. He explained the industrial investment policy adopted by the present government.

The former UN secretary general, Dr Kurt Waldheim, speaking on behalf of the industrialists, said Bangladesh gained a new life and vigor under the leadership of Gen Ershad who can take the country right into the forefront of development and progress. He expressed confidence that the Bangladesh leader will be able to lead the country toward the fulfillment of various development programs. Dr Waldheim also praised the people of Bangladesh for the courage and [word indistinct] in overcoming (?natural) difficulties.

Addresses Bangladesh Group

BK251428 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 25 Oct 83

[Text] General Ershad has called upon the Bangladeshis living abroad to extend their cooperation to build a happy and prosperous new Bangladesh. Speaking at a reception given in his honor by the Bangladesh Association of Washington D.C., the chief martial law administrator [CMLA] explained various reformative measures undertaken by the present government to improve the lot of common people in Bangladesh. Gen Ershad said the administration and the judiciary have been decentralized and taken to the doorsteps [words indistinct].

He (?expressed) the government's (?deep) determination to establish real democracy in the country. The CMLA said the election schedule has already been announced to hold local body polls. He, however, said the presidential polls and elections to parliament will be held after the revival of the Constitution.

President of the association Dr (Nurul Alam) also spoke on the occasion. The local government, rural development, and cooperatives minister, Mr Mahbubur Rahman, and Begum Rowshan Ershad were present.

SRI LANKA

Thondaman Calls Indian Mediation 'Best Solution'

BK241237 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Oct 83

[Text] The president of the Ceylon Workers Congress, Mr Thondaman, who is also the Sri Lankan minister for rural industry, has said the Indian mediation is the best way to find a solution to the ethnic problem in his country.

Talking to newsmen in Colombo, he said he would persuade the Sri Lankan authorities to have further discussions with Mr G. Parthasarathy, the Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi's special envoy. He hoped that President Jayewardene will offer an alternative package to solve the problem.

Mr Thondaman, who was on a 10-day visit to India, is to report to the Sri Lanka Cabinet on his talks with Indian leaders.

Islamic Republic 'Condemns' U.S. Invasion of Grenada

LD261752 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Oct 83

[Text] In connection with the U.S. military aggression against Grenada, a spokesman for our country's Foreign Affairs Ministry stated: By its patent and flagrant military aggression against and invasion of an independent territory in the world, U.S. imperialism once again revealed its aggressive, colonialist face to the world and proved that it does not respect or value countries' independence and sovereignty or international laws and standards, but follows the logic of force.

He added: The Islamic Republic of Iran, supporting the struggles of the nation of Grenada, condemns the aggression of American forces against this country and calls on the world's free nations to resist and struggle powerfully against the hegemony and the interests of the archsatan and its aides everywhere in the world.

Navy Commander Denies Iraqis Mined Persian Gulf

GF261830 Tehran IRNA in English 1708 GMT 26 Oct 83

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 26, IRNA — The commander of the Islamic Republic naval force, Captain Esfandiyar Hoseyni, categorically denied the recent claim of the Iraqi regime to the effect that it has mined the Persian Gulf. In the light of the massive and powerful presence of the naval force of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Persian Gulf, which detects the slightest moves such claims are baseless and vain, he added.

Hoseyni who was speaking in a press conference added that the Iraqi regime whenever [it] suffered any defeat raised such clamours to cover it up. This time it has raised the issue of mining the Persian Gulf which in essence is false.

All the area is in the control of the Islamic forces and Iraq since the start of the war has not been able to put up slightest appearance there, he told reporters. However, Captain Hoseyni continued, there was the possibility that Saddam might have played a vicious trick by dropping a number of mines in a far off area which may have been carried into the Persian Gulf by the current of waters. This could not be regarded as an operation, he stressed.

As for the possibility of blocking the Strait of Hormuz by the Islamic Republic of Iran, Captain Hoseyni said generally our policy is not to close the Hormuz Strait unless others should block our access to this waterway. If necessary, he added, we have plans to do this and have close cooperation with the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC). Furthermore, the popular operations have been organised and the naval force is completely ready. If one day the U.S. dared to interfere directly in the Strait of Hormuz then we will show how we cope with it, he told reporters.

Commenting on the proposal of the Arab countries to the United Nations on free navigation in the Persian Gulf waters, he said that apparently they have brought up the issue of free navigation. However, he continued, it has been proved that the United Nations and other such organisations would approve those issues which are in the interest of superpowers. We accept anything which is in accordance with the Islamic laws and divine principles, he said.

Remarking on the issue of the presence of the American forces in regional waters, Captain Hoseyni said that superpowers have always tried to exert their influence through their political and military presence in the region. He added that new movements and military maneuvers of the American forces were parts of their vicious plans and psychological warfare. In fact the recent victories of the Iranian forces have made superpowers to adopt new policies to boost morale of the Iraqi regime. Overall the physical presence of U.S. in the Persian Gulf and the Hormuz Strait would be considered as a suicidal move on the part of U.S., he pointed out.

As for the status of the Islamic Republic Navy, he said that it was enjoying an excellent combat readiness, and the enemy has been made to face this fact and time again.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Describes Defense Council Session

GF261922 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Oct 83

[Correspondent's interview with Hashemi-Rafsanjani, imam's representative on Supreme Defense Council, about council session held on 25 October in Tehran — recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani: Could you please tell us about last night's session of the Supreme Defense Council. What topics were discussed and what was decided at the session?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Last night's session was mainly about the Val-Fajr IV operation, the progress made so far during the operation and its continuation. The news we received about this operation has been good.

Present at the session were Mr Reza'i and Mr [name indistinct] who gave very encouraging reports and showed us the maps they had brought. They reported on the efforts and sacrifices made by our fighters. They spoke well of the (?readiness) of our soldiers, their high morale and their superb physical condition. These reports were well received. They said that the Iraqis flung (?17) brigades against us, which totals more than 4 complete divisions which they deployed at various defense positions—they had held apart from the strategic heights in their territory, the waterways and passes. They also had the support of counterrevolutionaries such as the Taleqanis and groups of hypocrites and (?many others). It seemed that they felt very secure and safe. It was unthinkable to them that our soldiers would make such progress so quickly.

(?On the Islamic side), from the beginning of the Val-Fajr IV operation, there have been noticeable victories. As far as the recent operation is concerned, we have attained our military objectives and discussed how long this operation should continue.

As for our progress in Iraqi (?territory), two phases of the operation have already been successfully completed with a minimum of losses to our side. (?One of the things of which we have been keenly aware was the area of Shelab — an area 60 km long to the Iraqi border and its width varies up to 30 km). It stretches from (Tudghil) in Kordestan, to its south is the Marivan region and north is Baneh. Its very features allowed the counterrevolutionaries to shell villages, so we had to gain control of this area. [Words indistinct] in the north up to Sar Dasht it was open country which was a rallying point for the counterrevolutionaries. It was essential that we gain control of these points for our own security. There was also a rather large Iraqi town in this area called (Tush). The area surrounding this town was well fortified. We now control three sides around it and only the western region is in Iraqi hands. So as not to destroy the housing there, we have not shelled the town. However, we must take effective steps to destroy the Iraqi defenses and resources in Kordestan.

[Correspondent] Has the Val-Fajr IV operation been successful in crushing the counterrevolutionary groups in that area?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani) It has been very effective. We have already achieved some of the target objectives and are hopeful of total success. [Sentence indistinct]

[Correspondent] (?An Iraqi spokesman) has said that Iraq will continue bombing our cities. What did he mean by this and should this happen, what retaliatory action will the Islamic Republic take?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I have studied Saddam's statements very carefully. Saddam's recent speech has, in fact, revealed his own helplessness. He has been asking the Kurdish people to solve their own problems because the Kurdish people have been complaining rather vehemently. He has, in fact, been asking the Kurdish people to defend themselves and not to depend on the Iraqis to defend them. He has, in fact, shown that he cannot effectively defend Kurdish towns. Meanwhile, he has also meted out threats. As far as rocket attacks against our cities are concerned — that is hitting military and noncombatants alike — it is nothing new. We, in fact, accept it as natural. However, their attitude in the past few days has been to hit certain cities, that is, cities that they can reach. In fact, we are thinking that the Iraqis should not be given more opportunities to hit our cities, but then what else can the Iraqis do except carry out such attacks.

[Correspondent] Now let us turn to the freedom of navigation of the Persian Gulf during the war. It is uncertain whether this issue will be taken up at the United Nations since it is the reactionary states in the region who are pushing for it. What actually is the situation? Will this issue be raised in the United Nations?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] This is not a new approach. From the very beginning when they thought that Iraq was winning, they made use of the United Nations. We would pay more attention to the United Nations if we believed that it adhered to its principles. There were UN-sponsored groups that visited Iran. They saw the devastation, they saw inhuman acts of Iraq, and they also saw the Iraqi cities, which we have not attacked. They admitted this. Yet there has been little response from this organization; it has made no moves. We are aware that the reactionary Arabs have enough votes in the United Nations to pass resolutions. We want them to look at reality. They should know our position. They should see the aggression committed in the region. And then they should make decisions keeping in mind the reality of the situation and the aspirations of our peoples. They should not do things that would end our faith in them. (?Now that we have started this thing we would like to finish it soon). We expect that the United Nations will consider this matter with more diligence.

[Correspondent] Now let us turn to the bombing of buildings housing U.S. and French troops in Beirut, which has been commented upon by several countries. What is your opinion with regard to these bombings and what problems can such incidents create in Lebanon?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] It is well known that the Lebanese people feel that their country is being cut up like a sacrificial lamb : One portion is being held by Israel and another portion is being held by Israel's friends. The Phalangists are involved. The Lebanese people cannot just sit doing nothing while their country is being dismembered. I have always felt these people will one day begin to resist. (?One should not expect that these people will not take any action). This was quite natural. Neither the French nor the Americans can remain untouched by events.

France today, so to say, is the center of world (?intrigue). People, with the support of the Elysee Palace, issue communiques, take sides in the world issues, commit murders, so they should not be surprised when such things happen to them. It is (?apparent) that Lebanese people are doing such things, that is, the Muslims in Lebanon. The Christians are not expected to do such things: Only Muslims are expected to do such things. For example, that resistance to imperialism that our people have shown may have caused some to involve our name in the matter. As it has been already said, it is impossible that Iran was behind these bombing incidents. Iran, in fact, does not support terrorist acts. Iran supports popular movements in the struggle against occupationist forces. We do not consider it just to interfere in such things. We have enough problems of our own. We think that our approach is logical and that it will achieve more than such explosions. The French know well that we do not indulge in such things. But we certainly support the Lebanese people. We hope that the Lebanese people will institute all necessary measures to oust the occupationists from their country. I think, whatever the United States and France attempt, they only antagonize the people. The people in France and Lebanon will force their repective governments to listen to popular wishes. The experiences of the two countries in Vietnam should be remembered by both.

[Correspondent] My next question is about Syria. This country is under pressure from conservative countries. What are your views regarding this matter?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I consider Syria a steadfast country, especially in regard to Lebanon and the war between Iraq and Iran. The Syrian reaction to Saddam in connection with the war has been intense. We see that they support nothing less than freedom of a people. Iraq has no right to [word indistinct]. In the matter of Lebanon as well, Syrian policy is very good. The Syrians are

resisting Israel. I do not think that the reactionary Arab elements would be able to change matters.

Ayatollah Khomeyni Addresses Friday Imams 26 October

LD261502 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Oct 83

[Address by Ayatollah Khomeyni to assembly of nationwide Friday imams, including Friday imam of Tehran, President Khamene'i, on 26 October at Jamaran Mosque — read by announcer]

[Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. One of the most important outcomes of this revolution was the reintroduction of Friday prayers. Friday prayers had been abandoned among us in the past; as for the Sunnites, they were also unable to hold Friday prayers as they wished.

As you know, the world today has become rather peculiar. Amnesty International has compiled the names of a group of countries, claiming that they have violated human rights. However, there is no mention of the United States, France, and the USSR on this list. This is at a time when the Soviet Union and the United States have created such situations in Afghanistan and Beirut, saying that they are looking after people's interests. What have people's interests got to do with you? Then, they create so much clamor about Iran for having punished a few corrupt individuals, with the media attacking Iran.

Needless to say, they know only too well that should the Iranian revolution spread everywhere, then that would ring their knell and cut off their hands. Nevertheless, Islamic governments either do not realize this or they do but in order to rule a few more days keep silent and collaborate with them. We must stand up to them so that the revolution and Islam will be exported everywhere.

As for the forthcoming elections, they are of utmost importance and all of us are responsible for them. You do know that the enemies of Islam plan to see to it that the elections will not be held properly; they intend to remove them from the control of Muslims and the committed. Consequently, you must do everything in your power to hold a proper election.

Today, we must collect our forces and prevent the reemergence of impersonaters. You gentlemen, the Friday imams, apart from holding your own seminars, should maintain your contacts with other ulema in Tehran and Qom, so that a proper election is held. This is not a personal issue; it concerns Islam and other important matters.

Today, a major part of responsibilities are shouldered by you; no one must remain aloof and remove the responsibilities from one's shoulders. You must cooperate and help the government and strengthen governors-general and other officials; let the hypocrites say whatever they want to say.

I wish you success; I hope everything will be put right and proper. God bless you.

Prime Minister Musavi Returns From DPRK 26 October

GF270536 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 27 Oct 83

[Text] Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, who had lead a delegation consisting of the ministers of defense and industries and the minister of state for executive affairs to the People's Democratic Republic of Korea, returned to Tehran last night after a 3-day visit to that country and after holding talks with the president, the prime minister, and high-ranking political and economic authorities. He was received at the airport by a number of ministers. On arrival in Tehran, Mr Musavi told our correspondent that his visit to North Korea was useful.

Regarding the missile bombardment and attacks carried out by the Zionist regime of Iraq on residential areas of some cities, he said: This criminal act has taken place with the knowledge of the world oppressors and will have no effect on the morale of the Muslim nation of Iran. Saddam is condemned to defeat.

Base Headquarters Issues Communique No 16

LD261728 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Oct 83

[Communique No 16 of Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Headquarters]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The powerful combatants of Islam, by dealing deadly blows at the decaying body of the Zionist regime ruling Baghdad, continue their victorious battle to achieve final victory and the overthrow of the criminal Iraqi rulers.

The heroic forces of the school of monotheism — consisting of the heroes of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the devotees of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the mobilization unit — in the continuation of the second stage of the Val-Fajr IV operations managed to kill or wound more than 400 enemy forces, to destroy the 1st Battalion of the 5th Iraqi Brigade, and to cross the Qezel-Che-Sur River, northwest of the Iraqi town of Panjwin.

In the course of their victorious operations, the combatants of Islam also destroyed some units of the enemy's commando forces, killing a large number of them. Following the consolidation and stabilization of the positions of the forces of Islam on the heights overlooking the town of Panjwin, the communication-supply road linking the (Panjtan) and Sang-e Madan heights to Panjwin in Iraq, which was the enemy's main supply route in this region, came under the direct surveillance and within the range of the combatants of Islam. In the Sar Dasht region, the powerful combatants of Islam by consolidating their positions on the liberated strategic heights, continued to mop up this region from the filth of the agents of world blasphemy and, by opening heavy fire, inflicted losses and casualties on the enemy.

[Signed] Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Headquarters, joint operations center of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,515

LD261751 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Oct 83

[Communique No 1,515 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Yesterday and this morning, the grave warriors of Islam pursued their missions in the Val-Fajr IV sector by carrying out defensive operations in order to capture the predetermined objectives, by repulsing the enemy's counteroffensives and by crushing their desperate resistance.

Our forces in the Piranshahr and Hajj 'Umran operational sector yesterday opened fire on enemy positions and supply routes, thus preventing movement by the Saddamist forces, destroying several personnel carriers and several enemy trenches and foxholes, and killing or wounding at least 50 enemy troops.

Exchanges of heavy artillery fire yesterday continued sporadically along all the defensive lines of the southern fronts, and our brave combatants' fire repulsed the enemy's reconnaissance activities and patrol operations. Our forces also set on fire 1 fuel tanker and 10 enemy trenches and foxholes on the other side of the Arvand Rud.

Enemy fire on Abadan's residential districts yesterday demolished two houses and three stores. In addition, enemy aircraft yesterday also bombed some districts of Baneh and surrounding areas of Marivan.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Further Reportage on Gulf War Situation

Iraqis Hit Two Cities

LD261743 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Oct 83

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the criminal Saddam once again has resorted to an insane move in order to increase the life of his shameful and criminal regime with his last ditch efforts—what a futile dream. The Ba'thist criminals pounded the cities of Masjed Soleyman and Behbehan at 1701 and 1715 respectively today and rolled these cities in dust and blood with the weapons donated by the East and West.

The report of the Central News Unit dispatch indicates that two crowded points in the city of Behbehan were hit and as a result, about 100 residential houses and 1 school were completely demolished. Latest reports indicate that bodies of more than 77 innocent martyrs have been recovered from beneath the debris; the rescue work is still in progress. The number of wounded reported so far is over 400.

This barbaric attack left five wounded and one martyr in Masjed Soleyman.

Iraqis Repelled From Bases

GF261814 Tehran IRNA in English 1617 GMT 26 Oct 83

[Text] Sar Dasht, Oct. 26, IRNA — The Iranian forces late last night launched a coordinated offensive against the Iraqi positions around Harginch height eastern Iraq, following a ten-hour fierce battle, repelled the Iraqis from their bases.

In this battle which in some areas turned into a hand to hand fighting, a number of Iraqi forces were killed and a large quantity of their munitions were seized.

The Harginch heights is located west of Panjwin and west of the Iranian border commanding a large area of Iraqi territory.

Chemical Bombs Used

LD261645 Tehran IRNA in English 0907 GMT 26 Oct 83

[Text] Tehran, oct 26, IRNA — For the third time in less than a week, the Iraqi forces fired chemical bombs at the Islamic forces in the Val Fajr-4 operation (?region).

Several artillery shells hit the positions of the Islamic forces in the Hargineh region Tuesday afternoon, causing minor surface wounds on a number of Muslim combatants. One combatant was being treated at the regional clinic for burning eyes, itching and surface burns on his body.

Iraqi Soldiers Urged 'To Join Forces of Islam'

GF241541 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1350 GMT 24 Oct 83

[From "Voice of Islamic Revolution in Iraq" program]

[Text] Sons of our wounded Iraq, zealous Iraqis, honorable sons of our Iraqi people: Saddam's mercenaries are today meeting their gloomy fate at the hands of the victorious forces of Islam. Death is awaiting in the battlefield or, when they escape from the battlefield,death is awaiting them at the hands of Saddam's butchers. The forces of Islam today open their arms to welcome the honorable and zealous men who have been compelled by Saddam to join the war. Throngs of prisoners are being captured by the forces of Islam. They are warmly welcomed by their compatriots, the Iraqi mujahidin, and their Muslim brothers, the forces of the Islamic Republic.

Heroic Iraqi soldiers, heroic officers, it is your only opportunity: Join the forces of Islam. It is your only way to salvation. Staying in the battlefield or even retreating is futile. Don't let your fate be like that of those who have been doomed to hell.

Men of our Iraqi Army, the army of Islam is coming. The banners of "There is no God but God" are approaching your fortresses. Surrender to the forces of Islam. Assist the soldiers of Islam and oppose the mercenaries of Saddam. Saddam is leading you to hell. "Beware the hellfire that is fueled by people and stones." [Koranic verse]

Valiant soldiers of the Tigris and the Euphrates our kinsmen and cherished ones in wounded Iraq, this is your last opportunity; seize it before it is too late. The banners of "God is great" are approaching you, they are advancing toward you victoriously. Do not hesitate to welcome the army of Islam. It is coming to save you and save your honor and dignity that have been soiled by Saddam and his masters. It is coming to defend the honor and dignity of Islam. It is coming to champion the oppressed suffering under the yoke of a tyrannical and tribal regime that has for many years violated the rights of our oppressed people.

People of the Tigris and the Euphrates, sons of Basra and (Al-Hadba'), our people in Ad-Diwaniyah, Al-Hillah, and Karabala, all honorable people in beloved Iraq, The banners of the prophet's grandson are coming to you. The sons of Husayn in Iran are coming to you. This is your opportunity. Death is more honorable than disgrace which is better than hellfire. Do not lose this opportunity, for it will be too late for remorse. Surrender to the forces of Islam. Kill those who are trading with your blood. Strike at Saddam's mercenaries who have humiliated you. Kill those vile people who forced you to oppose the army of God's prophet. Do not lose this opportunity, for it will be too late for remorse.

Commentary Explains Forces' Entry Into Iraq

GF24020 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 24 Oct 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The forces of Islam have entered the territory of bleeding Iraq and hoisted the banner of "There is but one God and Muhammad is his prophet," which has been their slogan throughout the war. The entry into Iraq was a reaction for reasons of security and deterrence. Iran was compelled to embark on this action as a result of the persistent intransigence of the Baghdad rulers in rejecting the condition of putting the aggressors on trial — one of the five conditions for ending the fighting.

Imam Khomeyni has defined the whole process as part of the means to defend the Islamic Republic.

Hence, the Gulf countries — and we mean those countries which helped Saddam's regime in its aggression — have only to clarify their stands [words indistinct] we defend their security [words indistinct] by consolidating the principle of "neither East nor West." We will not wage a war against them at all as long as they preserve the region's independence and security. We are not warmongers, but if a war breaks out we can cope with it by tightening our belts.

The entry into Iraq was not our objective. It was Saddam's regime that initiated the aggression and entered our country and raised the banner of Arab nationalism and the slogan of pushing the Arabs of Khuzestan toward the pre-Islamic state of ignorance.

Was it not Saddam who called for Iran's dismemberment? [Words indistinct] in Khorramshahr when the city was under the yoke of savage occupation? What happened to the words of Mu'ayyad al-Badri in the television program "Sports in a Week"? We still have the banners on which was written "the hospital of Saddam's al-Qadisiyah" [words indsitinct], and the documents joining government departments to the offices of the district governors of Iraqi cities. All of these confirm that it was the Zionist Saddam regime which wanted and committed aggression and sought expansion. Even Western news media such as *Ad-Dustur*, *Al-Watan*, and others interviewed the president of the General Union of Iraqi Women--Ahvaz branch, for instance — thus viewing Ahvaz as part of Iraq. Indeed, in a statement to issue No 229-230 of *Ad-Dustur* a few days before the liberation of Khorramshahr, Latif Nusayyif Jasim, Saddam's culture and information minister, said that an Iraqi and Arabic poetry festival will be held in the liberated cities of Al-Muhammarah [Khorramshahr] and Qasr-e Shirin. Thus, the liberation of Iranian cities and their annexation to Iraq clearly focuses the light on the mentality of Saddam's regime and (?its intentions) to divide Iran.

Therefore, our entry (?into Iraq) has every legal and [word indistinct] justification, international and domestic:

First, we want to stop the aggression.

Second, we want to defend our cities and people agianst Iraqi artillery and planes.

Third, we want to preserve our country's unity and put an end to the dreams of poetry competitions [words indinstinct].

Fourth, [words indistinct] we shall save the Iraqi people and Army from the tyranny of Saddam and his masters — this can be accomplished by achieving the first three objectives. The achieving of these four objectives paves the way to Palestine [words indistinct].

Operations Against 'Counterrevolution' in Kordestan

GF261810 Tehran IRNA in English 1612 GMT 26 Oct 83

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 26, IRNA — The Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Headquarters set up in western Iran has launched successful operations to sweep the counterrevolution in the area.

One of the latest operations of the headquarters started Oct. [words indistinct] of Sar Dasht in West Azarbayjan Province, which used to be one of the main supply points of the counterrevolution. The area because of its strategically important heights fortified with concrete bunkers, served as a stronghold for the leaders of the counterrevolution groups.

Because of this situation, the former regime despite all military support given by the U.S. Administration, never managed to control the area. The area because of the Lak-Lak heights overlooking the Iraqi border city of Qaleh-Dizeh, was the main supply route of the counterrevolutionaries. The Iraqi regime by providing them with munitions, was using them as a barrier against operations of the Iranian forces.

The point that the counterrevolutionary elements were aware of the Iranian operations beforehand gives greater significance to

the victories of the Iranian forces in their attack. According to those elements captured during the operations, the counterrevolutionaries were aware of the attack, however, at the early hours of the operations the Hanimal, Lak-Lak, Homal, Belis, Bichli and Rostam Alan, Bajal, Doulmiri and Khar-Asb heights were liberated by the Iranian forces.

In this operation the counterrevolutionaries by leaving behind more than 150 casualties, fled to lower parts of the area where it said that their fugitive leaders such as Abdulrahman Qasemlu and Ezzeddin Hoseyn, used to hold their meetings.

The counterrevolution in cooperation with the Iraqi Ba'thist forces launched several unsuccessful counteroffensives to retake the Lak-Lak heights, but were repulsed each time.

The head of the headquarters described the operations as he most significant one ever launched in Kordestan region. He added that the headquarters had decided to destroy all positions of the counterrevolutionaries in the area, during the current year. From economic, political, military and propaganda point of view, the area was the life line of the counterrevolutionaries.

The Muslim Kurdish peshmergas played a crucial role in leading the Islamic combatants towards their objectives. In these operations some 18 villages were liberated, inhabitants of which enthusiastically welcomed the forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

According to the reports, Ezzeddin Hoseyn and Qasemlu fled to Iraq from the border village of Ashkan where they had their offices and consequently the counterrevolutionary elements lost their morale and were expected to surrender to the Islamic forces.

Another strategically important height liberated in the operations is Seir, located ten kms out of Sar Dasht which is overlooking heights inside Iraq and the basis of the counterrevolutionaries in Bijveh village, and have strengthened their positions in these areas. The Bijveh village was one of the main strongholds of the counterrevolutionaries. Because of its importance the counterrevolutionaries showed a stiff resistance in defending the village. Prior to the current operation, the headquarters, initiated another operation in north west of Sanandaj, capital of Kordestan Province, as a result of which the Piranshahr-Sar Dasht axis was cleared from the counterrevolution and several villages were liberated.

Various Groups Depart for Gulf War Fronts

East Azarbayjan Clergymen

GF231132 Tabriz Domestic Service in Azeri 1530 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Text] A group of clergymen from East Azarbayjan was sent to the fronts of wrong against right today around noon. The group gathered at the office of the Islamic propaganda organization of Martyr Ayatollah Tabataba'i. They first listened to the speech of Hojjat ol-Eslam [name indistinct], head of the propaganda organization. They were then sent to the fronts in two groups.

Iraqi 'Revolutionaries'

GF231846 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] A group of Muslim Iraqi revolutionaries left today for the front of the war which the regime ruling in Iraq has imposed on the Islamic Revolution to take part in the fighting against the Saddamist forces.

It is worth noting that many groups of Muslim Iraqi revolutionaries have left previously for the war of right against wrong.

Tabriz Volunteers

GF260640 Tabriz Domestic Service in Azeri 1530 GMT 24 Oct 83

[Text] The Islamic Revolution guards of the 5th District sent another group of mobilized volunteers to the fronts of wrong against right from the Tabriz Garrison following a farewell ceremony yesterday afternoon.

20 Drugs, Firearms Dealers Sentenced, Executed

LD241149 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Oct 83

[Excerpt] The Central News Unit reports that on orders from the Sistan va Baluchestan Islamic Revolution Court and with the confirmation of the Supreme Revolution Court 20 traders in death and destroyers of the younger generation have been sentenced to death on charges of dealing in narcotics and firearms. The sentence was carried out at the Zahedan Islamic Revolution Central Committee at dawn today.

Free Voice of Iran Account

GF250746 (Clandestine) Free Voice of iran in Persian 1500 GMT 24 Oct 83

[Text] According to our correspondent, 20 brave Baluchi fighters were executed by firing squad in Zahedan this morning. The unjust revolution court of Sistan va Baluchestan announced that they were guilty of dealing in drugs and arms.

Our correspondent adds in his report: This group was part of the Baluchi fighters active against Khomeyni's regime. They were arrested by guards recently and were sent to the prison of Zahedan's central Islamic Revolution committee and were executed this morning in the courtyard of the same committee.

The names of the executed are: Hajj Baharor Qambarzehi-(?Gorgij), Mohammad Jalilian, Mahmud Kalantari, Sohrab Gorgij, Sharif Ambarzehi-Gorgij, Hasan Rigi, Mohammad Panir-Jarideh, Monammad Pazandeh, Rahim Salarzehi, Mahmud Aghdashi, Hasan Amiri, 'Abdorrahman Gorgij, 'Abdollah Gorgij, Hajj Shamseddin Bazamzehi-Baroghli, Mohammad Hoseyni Ru'ini, Khanjan Jahantir, Mohammad Anvar Bijorgzadeh, Gholam Hoseyn Kazemian, and Hoseyn Karimi-Gohari.

NVOI Warns of U.S. 'Pretext' of Defending Gulf Shipping

TA241540 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Unattributed commentary: "U.S. Hostile Activities Against Our Homeland"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: U.S. imperialism is getting ready for another hostile act against our homeland, Iran. On the order of U.S. President Reagan, another naval task force comprising a helicopter carrier and two vessels carrying 2,000 Marines have been dispatched to the Persian Gulf. One group of ships from the U.S. 7th Fleet, including the aircraft carrier *Ranger*, was sent from the Pacific Ocean to the northwestern region of the Indian Ocean.

Under the pretext of the need to defend waterways through which the Persian Gulf's oil is shipped, officials of the U.S. Department of the Navy have dispatched these large forces to the Persian Gulf region. Even now, a powerful U.S. naval force is present in this area. The spokesman of the U.S. Department of the Navy said that above all the aim of these measures is the free and unhindered passage of ships through the Strait of Hormuz, as well as assistance in the export of Iranian oil from Khark Island.

The Iranian people have never requested such assistance from Reagan and his administration. The Iranian people have always demanded and continue to demand that the Persian Gulf region and the northwestern sector of the Indian Ocean be cleansed of the filthy presence of U.S. warships.

Now, what has happened that U.S. imperialism is showing concern for the export of Iranian oil?

As we are aware, U.S. imperialism, particularly Reagan, the current U.S. President and his administration, have declared the Persian Gulf region, including the southern part of our homeland Iran, as their region of so-called vital interests. It is on the basis of this crude and overt neocolonialist policy that U.S. imperialism and the Reagan administration have relegated themselves the right to interfere openly in the internal affairs of all the countries of the world, including the Persian Gulf region and our homeland, Iran.

U.S. imperialism's interference in the internal affairs of other countries occurs under various pretexts. In this particular instance, U.S. imperialism is using the Iran-Iraq war as its pretext. In the meantime, U.S. imperialism — the greatest foe of a free and independent Iran — is escalating its military and war activity in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf region at a time when there is a possibility of settling the disputes.

U.S. imperialism has an interest in the prolonging of the destructive and ruinous war between Iran and Iraq because this war undermines anti-imperialist struggles in the Middle East region. Reagan and his administration are striving with all their power to fan the flames of war between Iran and Iraq as much as they can. They spread various provocative rumors about the escalation of war activities in the region so they can take advantage of all this to further their imperialist goals and consolidate their neocolonialist positions and ultimately to expand and escalate their military presence in the region.

However, the aim of the military presence of U.S. naval forces in the Persian Gulf and the northwestern sector of the Indian Ocean is clear and obvious. Above all, this aim can be summed up as defense of the illegitimate interests of U.S. imperialism's monopolies in this, the world's richest oil region, as well as the suppression of the national liberation movements of the region's countries. Naturally, U.S. imperialism fears hese movements as a jinn fears the name of God. Moreover, by endangering the security of the southern borders of our country, the Reagan administration wants to subject our homeland to continuous military pressure. This is proof that America still intends to punish Iran, merely because the Iranian nation dared to reject dependence on America and expelled it from its homeland. U.S. Government authorities are trying to force the Iranian nation to redress the insult that it allegedly administered against the United States. In the view of Washington statesmen, since Iran is part of the U.S. strategic equation in the Middle East, the United States should bring Iran back to the fold as soon as possible and at any cost.

Secretary of Defense Weinberger and other high-ranking Pentagon officials have repeatedly reiterated this U.S. imperialist position regarding the Persian Gulf in front of the defense affairs committee of the U.S. Congress. Weinberger said that the Reagan administration is preparing a completely new strategy to defend U.S. vital interests in this troubled region of the world with respect to the Middle East, including Iran. This strategy is not new at all, however, because its basis is the very impudent interference in the internal affairs of independent countries, including our homeland Iran. The only new aspect that one can attach to it is that the Reagan administration is carrying out these interventions more crudely and impudently.

For a long time now, however, the world's liberated nations no longer fear the U.S. club. Nations of the Middle East as well as our heroic and revolutionary nation are free to choose their own path and they do not care whether America favors this path.